SANDY ISLAND MEN'S CAMP

Report of the year - 1935

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Foreword

The thirty-seventh season in the history of Sandy Island as a Men's Camp has marked the continuance of an "enterprise in fellowship" which has meant a great deal to individual campers and has continued the Sandy Island tradition whose spirit quickens those who have ever known Sandy Island.

This is the eighth report which the present director has had to write. The years 1928 and 1929 were devoted to helping campers secure a more definite idea of the purposes of Sandy Island and to modifying the traditions in ways which should not only conserve the values of the old but also point the way to new values emerging from changing conditions. The tangible results may be seen in the camp song, "Beautiful Isle of Sandy" and in the Town Meeting. The years 1930-1931 were devoted to the enrichment of the program of camp to make possible expression in a wider variety of interests and to the development of the equipment of facilities of camp. The years 1932-1933 brought decreases in the registration an effect due largely to the general economic condition and no doubt also to some changes in the recreational interests of young men. These conditions necessitated a reduction in staff and a reorganization of staff responsibilities which has had a value in greater efficiency in the routine of camp management if not in the direction of program interests. In the year 1934 greater attention was given to publicity and promotion with the result of a larger registration which continued this year in spite of less attention being given to this phase.

The year 1935 has provided a happy experience for campers if their testimonies in letters and in word of appreciation to staff members mean anything. No marked developments have been noted in the spirit or objectives of camp, the promotional aspects or staff arrangements, and the physical aspects or program features of camp.

OBJECTIVES

The purposes of camp have been thought of in much the same terms as outlined in the reports of 1929-30-31. We have come to think of Sandy Island as a vacation opportunity but not as just another vacation spot. Sandy Island has become an "enterprise in fellowship" where there is an opportunity to contribute as well as to receive a contribution to physical, mental, social and spiritual health. This conception and reality may not get across to the majority consciously and explicitly but it does to a goodly number indirectly at least while in camp and during the winter months.

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Report of the Year - 1933

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This is the eighth report which the present director has had to write. The years 1926 and 1933 were devoted to helping campers secure a more definite idea of the purposes of Sandy Island and to modify the traditions in ways which should not only conserve the values of the old but also point the way to new values emerging from changing conditions. The tangible results may be seen in the camp song, "Beautiful Isle of Sandy" and in the Town Meeting. The years 1930-1931 were devoted to the enrichment of the program of camp to make possible expression in a wider variety of interests and to the development of the equipment of facilities of camp. The years 1932-1933 brought deepness in the registration as effect due largely to the general economic condition and no doubt also to some change in the recreational interests of young men. These conditions necessitated a reduction in staff and a reorganization of staff responsibilities which has had a value in greater efficiency in the routine of camp management if not in the direction of program interests. In the year 1934 greater attention was given to mobility and promotion with the result of a larger registration being given to this phase.

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These objectives have been approached more nearly this year than ever before in the good spirit prevailing in camp, in the feeling of individual responsibility for the welfare and running of camp, and in the organization of and participation in activities and interests.

In the light of these objectives it is remarkable that such a group of young men coming out of miscellaneous backgrounds and from communities and business life where interests and purposes are so different that so large a group do come and that they respond so well together to the conditions of life on Sandy Island.

PROMOTION and REGISTRATION

A full discussion of the last paragraph would raise questions as to the reason for the Boston Y.M.C.A. running such an enterprise in days like these. We think it does meet reel needs of young men but needs which they hardly recognize. They have more superficial interests which they may feel will not be satisfied at a place like Sandy Island, isolated from the mainland and apart from the main traffic of social life. There is some truth in their apprehension. Old campers have remarked how difficult it was to convince their friends to come with them to Sandy Island. Fellows cannot drive a car, stay up all night, visit places of amusement, and go to the dance. At Sandy Island we only have a tractor and the staff drives it, row-boats and canoes are only a pleasure when one gets to know how to handle them. We go to bed at ten o'clock altho we do not have to do that. However, there are no noises to stay up for and no excitement except the rush of wind in the pines, the swish of water on the lake and shore, the call of a loon, and the sparkle of the stars. These one comes only to enjoy through some acquaintance. There are no amusements but what fellows can make for themselves and that they have lost the art to accomplish in a large degree. There are no dances or femininity at Sandy Island to thrill a group of young men and a trip to the Weirs and the dance ends too soon and into an atmosphere which is too elemental to set well after artificial light and surroundings. Only an old camper knows how favorable camp conditions contrast to the general recreational interests.

This contrast sets the problem of promotion and program for Sandy Island. How to attract young men with normal superficial interests and how to hold them by satisfying these interests and by providing them with facilities and direction to meet real underlying needs?

The promotion of camp this year was carried on much the same as last year although not as extensively. Undoubtedly we reaped some of the benefits of contacts made a year ago which were more easily followed up. Spending more than $200 less we achieved a registration approximately the same. Whether more would have come with more work and expenditures or the execution of a different plan is a question. There were 228 campers against 227 in 1934. The total of 2272 camper days was reached in contrast to 2262 camper

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The promotion of camp this year was carried on much the same as last year although not as extensively. Undoubtedly we reaped some of the benefits of contacts made a year ago which were more easily followed up. Spending more than $300 less we achieved a registration approximately the same. Whether more would have come with more work and expenditures or the execution of a different plan is a question. There were 238 campers against 227 in 1934. The total of 2272 camper days was reached in contrast to 2262 camper

days in 1934. The number of men in camp at any one time was more even this year, with camp building up more quickly and tapering down more slowly. There was no wide fluctuations. The peak of attendance was 86 reached on July 29th this year in contrast to 115 on July 25th in 1934.

If the 776 camper days of the family camp period are added to the regular camp the total of 3028 camper days which is about the same total as in 1932. The family camp development has enabled us to use the camp equipment over as long a period as in the years before 1930, has brought up the total camper days up to 1932, and has brought the budget and actual expenditures nearly into balance once more. A detailed report of the family camp is appended to this report.

PROGRAM

A report of the program at Sandy Island as it is set-up and as it develops day by day is detailed in the reports of 1933 and 1931. The procedures and the main content this year of the program remain about the same. More direction and management of program features were in the hands of campers this year than ever before. This is a good thing in many ways and particularly necessary this year with a new and reduced staff. There is a drawback however, in the fact that some help ought to be provided campers at the point of swimming, in the counsel of individual campers with special outdoor interests, and in the leadership for constructive fireside discussions, social activities, and dramatic features.

The activities of camp are arranged by camper committees appointed at the weekly Town Meeting to execute the suggestions of campers. The aim is to provide those features for general activity on the part of all those who care to participate and leaving freedom for individuals to pursue their special interests and leisure time recreations. One can do as much or as little as he pleases. For those who want and need organized activity there is plenty to engage in, whi- for those who can and want to interest themselves in their own activities there is freedom to do so.

Tennis tournaments and matches were especially prominent among activities with the tennis courts in good condition. Baseball games were played between different camp groups and between the camp team and other outside camp teams, of which 13 were played. Sandy Island winning 6, losing 6, and tied 1. Playground ball and volley ball engaged many in the evenings after supper until dark with new interest this year with leagues composed of teams representing different cabin groups. Handball, Quoits, Track and Aquatic meets continued an activity for many. A basketball field of play was laid out by some campers which attracted others. On the playing field football and golf practice was participated in by a few. In the

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competitive sports of Track, Aquatics, Tennis, Baseball and Handball campers were encouraged by the award of points for superior performance. The Sandy Island letter "S" was awarded to 18 campers and 113 earned lesser awards and accepted buttons representing points won in competition.

The lake with its refreshing water was a source of pleasure to many. Boats and canoes were given a good work out. A number of long canoe trips were taken this year in excess of other years. Hikes to surrounding mountains included eight trips with 92 campers participating.

A few trips to the Weirs and the dance were taken but without some of the enthusiasm of other years. Not so many good fireside discussions were held and the music and singing of camp was not so fine as usual. A new piano was secured and paid by campers but very few good pianists were in camp.

The Sunday services which are voluntary were well attended. Besides the director the leadership of these inspirational worship services was shared by Rev. A. Hopkinson, of Fitchburg, Mass., Rev. L. Fitzgerald of Deep River, Conn., and J. Beal a former Associate Director of Sandy Island from Jaffrey, N.H. One especially fine contribution was made by Roswell Rogers of Boston who gave a dramatic reading of the Apocryphal book of Tobit which was gratefully received by the campers. Sunset sings on Sunday evening were enjoyed by many.

Committees on indoor activities in the Lodge arranged Ping-pong, shuffle-board, chess and checkers, and bridge tournaments and weekly entertainments with talent from the campers. The Improvement Association met weekly on Wednesdays and carried out programs of work which helped greatly to maintain and improve camp.

OPERATION

Camp was set-up, the equipment and facilities maintained in good condition, and the routine duties were attended with efficiency even though the staff was largely new and reduced in size. It is doubtful that at the point of need in the program that the operation of camp was as effective as it might have been. This year the director in addition to the general supervision and management of camp had to help with all the program activities of camp except the mountain hikes, and in addition took care of first aid and what swimming instruction and water front supervision was given.

The detail of finances is on file with the treasurer's office. There was still a small deficit but a much better record was made than in the last few years. The only large expenditures

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this year were those of $150 for remaking mattresses and approximately $80 for labor and repairs on the Kohler electric generator. A comparison of this year's budget and actual expense with those of 10 years ago would show considerable decrease for staff expenditures, about the same expense for promotion and approximately a little better at the point of expenditures for the commissary and considerable more expenditures proportionately for overhead charges. It is a question whether or not these overhead charges could not be cut down and should not be reduced in the light of a lower volume of campers served. Of course this is a factor in the ultimate question of the continuation of Sandy Island and its future direction of operation.

Camp equipment and facilities are in general adequate and in good condition to serve 100 to 125 men. A detailed statement giving information as to the camp's present condition and inventories are on file.

SUMMARY

The significant contents of a card from one of the campers to Leslie Updegraph, Young Men's Secretary of the Huntington Avenue Branch and of a letter to the director are perhaps the best conclusion to this report and they are given in quotations below.

"Dear Les: Sorry but I guess you'll have to count me out on the Sunday trip. I want to spend every minute I can at this fine camp. I think this must be the finest men's camp there is anywhere and if a fellow can't have a good time here there's something wrong with him. Wish I could stay a month. Will see you next week some time."

"Dear Charley: I read the Sandy Isle News with mingled feelings of sorrow and pleasure. Don't send it any more - the sheet makes me "homesick". .... I feel so much better physically after having been at Sandy that I count my vacation well spent and on the asset side of the ledger....After a year's breathing tinged with chemicals that pine air is absolutely the thing. Not to mention all the other factors which I enjoyed so much. Incidentally the grub suited me to a 'T'.....Often I think of the foresight of the person who willed, I believe, Sandy to the Boston Y.M.C.A. Men need camps as much as boys, especially in these hectic days of industrial hurry and scurry. Apparently he had vision. Sandy is all I hoped a camp would be and way back in '98 somebody did a splendid thing. I can't help but say, because of him, I and my friends, are the beneficiaries of the natural life -- if only for two weeks. Pardon the sermonizing, but the idea has frequently entered my mind."

And from Switzerland: "Dear Charlie: This year I am

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And from Switzerland: "Dear Charlie: This year I am

spending my vacation in Switzerland. However, my thoughts are often with good old Sandy. I hope to be able to arrange for a Widersehen next summer at Sandy beach."

Sandy Island has served a great many young men well over the 37 years of its life. The founders no doubt foresaw some of these values which have given rise to a fine tradition. They could not have foreseen its present development and continuance in a day of changing conditions. The Boston Y.M.C.A. has done well to support such an institution and a fellowship as Sandy Island has become. There may be need at the present to consider anew the future in order to conserve these old values and to serve new and continuing needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E Bunker

Camp Director

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Charles E. Hunter

Camp Director

SANDY ISLAND FAMILY CAMP

Season of 1935

* * * *

The Family Camp brought together an unusually fine group of folks this year. The growth of this group in the last three years has been steady.

	1933	1934	1935
Campers	43	62	79
Camper Days	204	476	766

Included in the group this year were 17 couples and 8 family groups with 21 children, 11 boys and 10 girls. Besides these there were 8 guests and 19 single men as individual campers.

As far as volume goes the increase in number each year has seemed to prove the wisdom of this experiment. Very little is done by way of promotion outside of contacts with old Sandy Islanders now married. Certainly the quality of the group has shown the wisdom up to the moment of confining our efforts among the Sandy Island and Association group rather than to promotion of the family camp indiscriminantly.

An effort has been made in the family camp to continue the purposes of the men's camp as an "enterprise in fellowship". A quotation from a letter from one wife suggests a result we had hoped for. "our vacation at Sandy Island was wonderful - a grand help to the body and particularly to the spirit. I think the best solution to the problems of the world would be for everyone to carry on the friendly Sandy Island spirit in their communities."

The program of the family camp was arranged in Town Meeting similar to the regular camp. The presence of a number of individual campers during the first week made it possible to have a good tennis tournament and a baseball game with Camp Demolay. The ladies also participated in tennis, playground ball and volley ball. A swimming meet brought a good deal of fun and sport one morning. A few beach parties gathered a goodly number on the beach in a good social time. Two picnics were held with the whole group at more distant points on the lake. A hike to Mt. Shaw was taken.

A trip to North Woods Camp was made where a presentation of the operetta, "Pinafore", was enjoyed. Another trip was made to Wolfeboro for a group to take in a Will Roger's picture. The boats and canoes were used by all with the usual precautions. In the evenings the Lodge became a center for social intercourse before the fireplaces, around the tables, playing games, or singing around the piano. A pingpong tournament, shuffle-board games, a progressive bridge party, popcorn and marshmallows around the fireplaces, and entertainment with camper talent, and an evening of social games were also enjoyed by the group in the evenings in the lodge. Two Sunday

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morning worship services and an evening sunset sing were included among the more definitely religious activities.

We did enjoy an exceptionally fine experience with the family camp and were encouraged at every hand to continue this feature at Sandy Island. The last week this year was larger than a year ago. Many shied away from coming late for they were afraid of cold and unsettled weather. They were right this year for our weather wasn't good during the last week. While we had a good time during that last week, the suggestion was brought forward several times that the family camp period start earlier.

The operation of the family camp was maintained with a reduced staff for the routine of camp needs less help in managing except for the dining room than in the regular camp. The use of camp facilities by an average of 41 campers a day during the family camp period enabled a longer and fuller use of the equipment of Sandy Island with little additional expense. Indeed this year the larger group served, the higher rates per camper during the family camp period, and the minimum of expenditures did make the family camp pay for its own operation including its share of the overhead charges of camp.

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2. The unmarried campers.

The single men tended to want to play their games and conduct their affairs independently of the family camp program (without implying any unwillingness on their part when urged to join in family camp activities). This tendency leads to a consideration of making the camp attractive to a small number of single women, limiting each group, let us say, to twenty, it being possible with our present equipment to house two such groups comfortably.

Recommendation: It is therefore recommended that promotion and publicity be undertaken toward securing a limited number of single women campers at the base rate of $15 per week. O.K.L. Mcdermott 1936

3. Sanitary conveniences.

It is evident that women, in particular, demand better toilet facilities than the camp now offers. This demand is for flush toilets, a shower-room, a wash bench. If family camp continues to be a growing proposition, this demand will have to be met. Any changes in pipelines, as necessitated in installing the system of chlorination, should have developments in this direction in mind.

III. COST

Some attempt was made this year to isolate the costs of family camp from men's camp costs. If one-third, this being the fraction of time camp is open that is devoted to family camp, of the costs be charged as expenses of family camp, it is difficult to demonstrate that as now organized family camp meets its costs, in spite of a decreased operating staff. But it is increasingly evident that the additional increment due to the higher rates of family camp, which are in turn justified by a somewhat more expensive bill of fare and decreased charges on the use of certain equipment, gives the whole picture a more favorable financial cast.

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